

§ 359.12 What happens in deflationary conditions?

In certain deflationary situations, the semiannual inflation rate may be negative. Negative semiannual inflation rates will be used in the same way as positive semiannual inflation rates. However, if the semiannual inflation rate is negative to the extent that it completely offsets the fixed rate of return, the redemption value of a Series I bond for any particular month will not be less than the value for the preceding month.

§ 359.13 What are composite rates?

Composite rates are single, annual interest rates that reflect the combined effects of the fixed rate and the semiannual inflation rate.

§ 359.14 How are composite rates determined?

Composite rates are set according to the following formula (See Appendix A to part 359 for examples of calculations involving composite interest rates.):

$$\text{Composite rate} = \{(\text{Fixed rate} \div 2) + \text{Semiannual inflation rate} + [\text{Semiannual inflation rate} \times (\text{Fixed rate} \div 2)]\} \times 2.^2$$

§ 359.15 When is the composite rate applied to Series I savings bonds?

The most recently announced composite rate applies to a bond during its next semiannual rate period. A bond's semiannual rate periods are consecutive six-month periods, the first of which begins with the bond's issue date. This means that there can be a delay of several months from the time of a composite rate announcement to the time that rate determines interest earnings for a bond. For example, if you purchased a bond in April, its semiannual rate periods begin every

April and October. At the beginning of the semiannual rate period in April, the most recently announced composite rate would have been the rate we announced the previous November. This rate will determine interest earnings for your bond for the next six months, through the end of September. At the beginning of the semiannual rate period in October, the most recently announced composite rate would be the rate announced the previous May. This rate will determine interest earnings for your bond through the end of the following March. However, if you purchased a bond instead in May, its semiannual rate periods begin in May and November. Therefore, the composite rates announced in May and November will apply immediately to this bond. (See Appendix C to part 359 at § 2 for a discussion of rate lag.)

§ 359.16 When does interest accrue on Series I savings bonds?

(a) Interest, if any, accrues on the first day of each month; that is, we add the interest earned on a bond during any given month to its value at the beginning of the following month.

(b) The accrued interest compounds semiannually.

§ 359.17 When is interest payable on Series I savings bonds?

Interest earnings are payable upon redemption.

§ 359.18 Is the determination of the Secretary on rates and values final?

The Secretary's determination of fixed rates of return, semiannual inflation rates, composite rates, and savings bonds redemption values is final and conclusive.

§ 359.19 How is interest calculated?

We base all calculations of interest on a \$25 unit. We use the value of this unit to determine the value of bonds in higher denominations. The effect of rounding off the value of the \$25 unit increases at higher denominations. This can work to your slight advantage

²Example for I bonds issued May 2002–October 2002:

Fixed rate = 2.00%
 Inflation rate = 0.28%
 $\text{Composite rate} = [0.0200 \div 2 + 0.0028 + (0.0028 \times 0.0200 \div 2)] \times 2$
 $\text{Composite rate} = [0.0100 + 0.0028 + 0.000028] \times 2$
 $\text{Composite rate} = 0.012828 \times 2$
 $\text{Composite rate} = 0.025656$
 $\text{Composite rate} = 0.0257$ (rounded)
 $\text{Composite rate} = 2.57\%$ (rounded)

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or disadvantage, depending on whether we round the value up or down.³

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Subpart B—Definitive Series I Savings Bonds

§ 359.25 What are the denominations and prices of definitive Series I savings bonds?

Definitive bonds are issued in denominations of \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000. These bonds are sold at par; that is, the purchase price is the same as the denomination (face value).

§ 359.26 When are definitive Series I savings bonds validly issued?

A definitive bond is validly issued when it is registered as provided in part 360, and when it bears an issue date and the validation indicia of an authorized issuing agent.

§ 359.27 What is the issue date of a definitive Series I savings bonds?

The issue date of a definitive bond is the first day of the month in which an authorized issuing agent receives payment of the issue price.

§ 359.28 Are taxpayer identification numbers (TINs) required for the registration of definitive Series I savings bonds?

The inscription of a definitive bond must include the TIN of the owner or first-named co-owner. If the bond is being purchased as a gift or award and the owner's TIN is not known, the TIN of the purchaser must be included in the inscription on the bond.

³For example: A composite rate of 2.57% will result in a newly purchased \$25 unit increasing in value after six months to \$25.32, when rounded to the nearest cent. Thus, a \$5,000 bond purchased at the same time as the \$25 unit will be worth \$5,064 after six months ($[\$5,000 \text{ divided by } \$25] \times \$25.32 = \$5,064$.) In contrast, if it applied directly to a \$5,000 bond, the rate would render a value of \$5,064.25 after six months, a difference of 25 cents. (This example does not include any discussion of the three-month interest penalty that applies if you redeem a bond less than five years after its issue date.)

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§ 359.29 What amount of definitive Series I savings bonds may I purchase per year?

The principal amount of definitive bonds that may be purchased in the name and TIN of any person, in any calendar year, is limited to \$30,000.

§ 359.30 Are definitive Series I savings bonds purchased in the name of an individual computed separately from bonds purchased in a fiduciary capacity?

We compute the purchases of bonds in the name of any person in an individual capacity separately from purchases in a fiduciary capacity (for instance, as representative for the estate of an individual).

§ 359.31 What definitive Series I savings bonds are included in the computation?

In computing the purchases for each person, we include the following outstanding definitive bonds purchased in that calendar year:

(a) All bonds registered in the name of and bearing the taxpayer identification number (TIN) of that person alone or as co-owner;

(b) All bonds registered in the name of the representative of the estate of that person and bearing that person's TIN; and

(c) All gift bonds registered in the name of that person but bearing the TIN of the purchaser.

§ 359.32 What definitive Series I savings bonds are excluded from the computation?

In computing the purchases for each person, the following are excluded:

(a) Bonds on which that person is named as beneficiary;

(b) Bonds to which that person has become entitled upon the death of the registered owner;

(c) Bonds to which that person has become entitled by virtue of the termination of a trust or the occurrence of a similar event; and

(d) Bonds that are purchased and deemed within the same calendar year.